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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Latvia)

SUBJECT Area Description Vestiena County

PLACE
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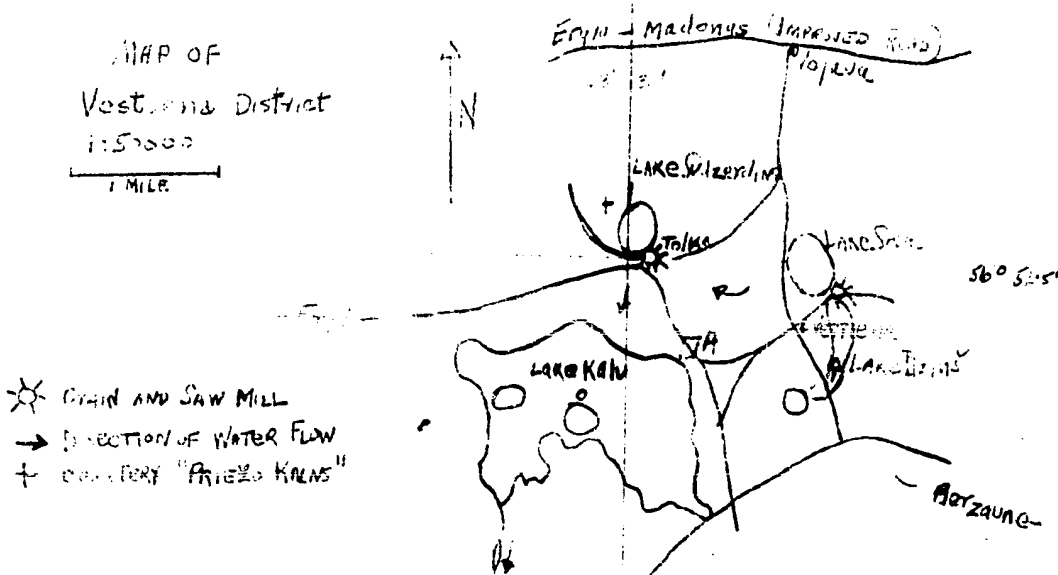
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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. There are approximately 3500 people in Vestiena County area which is about 10 to 15 miles on a side. The soil is quite poor and most of the inhabitants derive their income from milk production. Approximately 50% of the people are Lutheran and are the land owners of German origin. The remaining 50% are of the Russian Orthodox religion. The average farmer has 10 to 20 cows, two horses, five pigs and three or four children. About one-third of the land area is swampy waste land and one-third is covered by forest. The most prevalent disease among the cattle was the hoof and mouth disease. Approximately 80% of the inhabitants were anti-Communist. In 1942 there was one radio for each three farms. This radio was battery operated and one could hear only programs broadcast within about one hundred miles. The diet was relatively poor, primary sustenance being from home-baked rye bread, skimmed milk, cottage cheese and a little pork. The water was obtained from wells 0 to 30 ft deep. Garbage and sewage were used as fertilizer.



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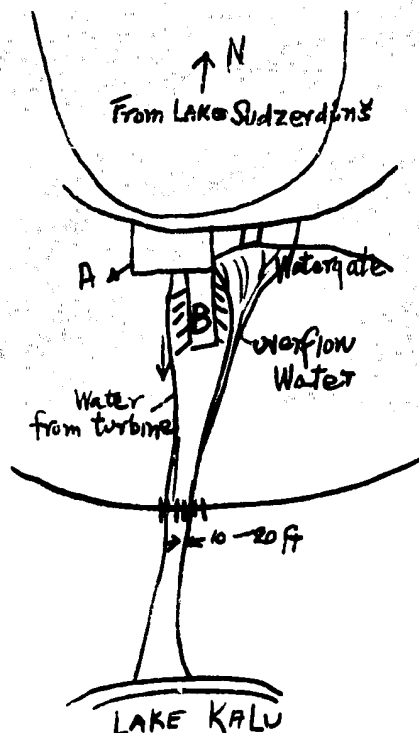
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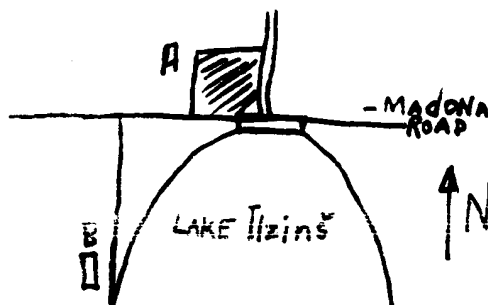
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2. The dairy, shown as "A" on drawing above, produced approximately one thousand pounds of butter per day in 1936. Its main power sources were a steam boiler running at a pressure of 90 lbs per square inch and a 25 h.p. steam engine.
3. "A" on map below is the grain and saw mill, Tolka, a red brick, two-story building. "B" is the saw mill. The dam above the watergate is about 45 ft high and develops about 100 h.p. The main part of the dam is of stone and concrete and is about 100 ft wide and 500 ft long with a wooden water overflow. The flood in springtime sometimes interrupts traffic on both dirt roads.



4. On drawing below "A" is the Vestiena grain and saw water mill. It is located between Lake Ilzins and Lake Salar. The overshoot wheel developed approximately 75 H.P. "B" below is the residence of the district medical officer, dental surgeon and veterinarian.



The roads in the area are all dirt and of poor construction. They are impassable in the winter. There were three automobiles in the county and five or six trucks.

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